



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a West Covina, Calif., man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

**David Anthony Torres**, 27, of West Covina, Calif., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon to eight years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 6, 2004, **Torres** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distributed 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Torres** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute the methamphetamine between January 2002 and Sept. 4, 2003, in Barry County, Mo.

A total of three defendants have now been convicted and sentenced for their role in this conspiracy.

On Jan. 21, 2005, **Gerald James Douez**, 38, of Aurora, Mo., was sentenced to five years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Douez** pleaded guilty on Aug. 12, 2004, to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, **Douez** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute the methamphetamine between January 2002 and Sept. 4, 2003, in Barry County, Mo. **Douez** also pleaded guilty to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. **Douez** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol with ammunition between January 2002 and July 24, 2003.

On Jan. 20, 2005, **Darryl E. Laytham**, 42, of Pierce City, Mo., was sentenced to 11 years and three months in federal prison without parole for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and illegally possessing a firearm. **Laytham** pleaded guilty on July 28,

2004.

By pleading guilty, **Laytham** admitted that he conspired with others to distribute the methamphetamine between January 2002 and Sept. 4, 2003, in Barry County, Mo. **Laytham** also pleaded guilty to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. **Laytham** admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun, a Norinco SKS rifle, and a FED .380-caliber pistol between January 2002 and March 2, 2004.

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the United States Postal Service and the Monett, Mo., Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)